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RESEARCH PROJECT ON TIMOR DOCUMENTATION OF THE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURIES, PUBLISHED AND UNPUBLISHED, IN THE LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES OF MACAU.

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From the arrival of the Portuguese in the Timor area over 400 years ago until the beginning of the 18th century, a continuing Portuguese presence on the island was represented only by the missionaries. The epoch of the governors appointed by the Estado da India (Goa) only began in 1695. From the reorganization by Portugal of the governments of its overseas possessions in 1836 until Timor became autonomous and linked directly to Metropolitan Portugal in 1896, Timor passed through 7 changes in status, and, though having its own governors, was for all but 15 of those years subordinate to the government of Macau, a situation borne rather reluctantly by Macau owing to its own decline in prosperity following upon the British becoming established in Hongkong in the 1840s. From 1874 until the creation of the Diocese of Dili in 1940, Timor was subordinate to the Diocese of Macau, and Timor missionaries continued to be trained in Macau until at least the mid-1960s.

Following the reorganization of 1836, the publication of official bulletins was begun in most of the colonies, but the *Boletim Oficial* of Timor did not commence until 1900. The 19th century saw a great increase in the spread of the printed word by means of newspapers, magazines, books and pamphlets, and by 1900 the number of periodicals which had been published in Macau had reached at least 30 titles, many of them providing platforms for bitter diatribes against various governors, officials, rival papers and private citizens, platforms which were also utilized by the ever present factions among the Europeans in Timor who were frequently making life unbearable for or having their lives made unbearable by the steady stream of governors (in one 20-year period Timor had 16 changes of government, including the interim ones).

With the exception of the *Boletim Oficial*, irregular departmental bulletins, the budgets and a shortlived 'mutual admiration' work of little note, the real periodical press of Timor only began in 1948 with the first issue of the diocesan bulletin *Seara*, and newspapers with *A Voz de Timor* in 1960. Regulations for a museum-library were printed in 1898 and there was apparently a small library in the late 1930s, but there is no data of which I am aware relating to public libraries in the post-WW2 period. A building was erected in Dili in the early 1950s to house a Centre of Timorese Studies, but was converted to other purposes. The colony's archives were lost in fires every few decades and again in the Second World War.

Though the Portuguese had penetrated the island over 400 years ago and can be said to have been the major force in the eastern half for well over 200 years, real occupation and pacification did not occur until the early 20th century. Education was chiefly administered by the missionaries. The Third Development Plan of 1968-1973 brought a considerable rise in the numbers of students and educational establishments, but the illiteracy rate in 1974 was still estimated as being about 90%. With a mainly rural population of roughly 650,000 in 1974, 31 languages and dialects, high illiteracy rate, limited press and little access to what has been printed outside of Timor about themselves and their land, and the great distance of East Timor from other lands within the Portuguese sphere of influence, it is little wonder that few Timorese are aware of the extent of the literature about Timor.

The Republic of Indonesia, which invaded East Timor in 1975, has now instituted an education system in which the medium of instruction will be Bahasa Indonesia. English will be the first choice in foreign languages, and it is understood that Portuguese will be low in priority. The greater part of the documentation of East Timor for the last 400 years is in the Portuguese language, and the East Timorese have the right to a knowledge of and access to their own history, not only from oral sources but also from the written and printed word. It is essential that a wide investigation be made of such material while a reasonably wide comprehension of the Portuguese language remains in East Timor.

Links between Australia and Portugal before the Second World War were few, and there is little Portuguese-language material in Australia. The Braga Collection in the National Library of Australia does contain a reasonable amount of material about Timor, but is mainly devoted to East Asia, and the Mitchell Library, Sydney, has some official Timor material from the early 20th century, but the remainder deals principally with Metropolitan Portugal.

Bibliographies of Timor are few, usually limited as to subjects covered or of an interim nature, and I would include in this latter category my own *A Bibliography of Timor* (Canberra, Australian National University, 1980). This bibliography, prepared in 1979, was based mainly on works seen personally in Australian libraries and references culled from other sources. I spent 1980 in Portugal checking the accuracy of those previously unseen works and seeking further references, and it became obvious that I should plan for a much expanded and corrected bibliography in the future.

A brief look in Lisbon at material originating from Macau made it obvious that a thorough investigation for Timor material in holdings of Macau serial publications ought be made. Father Manuel Teixeira, the historian of Macau, assures me that there is much unpublished material about Timor in the governmental and ecclesiastical archives. A number of works published in Portugal in the last 40 years cover the history of Timor in the 2 centuries up to the Second World War, but much of the information is erroneous and contradictory and other authors drawing on these sources perpetuate these mistakes. At times one can feel more certain about some recent publications of the earlier centuries than one can about the later ones. Material contemporary with the events is not necessarily free from mistakes and lies, but it is important to see the viewpoints of the time.

With the Indonesian incorporation of East Timor, the uncertain future of Macau, and the growing lack of interest concerning Timor in Portugal, there may be little time left for a thorough investigation of such material. In July 1983 I am going to Macau for an extended period in order to attempt to record and summarize such documentation. The results of that visit will be made available to centres of South-East Asian and Portuguese Studies and to the Timorese people. I also hope to be able to add some material to the Timor Collection being formed in Darwin, a city which, in my opinion, is the most suitable for a Timor Study Collection outside of Timor itself. The Timor Collection will eventually be deposited within the Northern Territory library system.

The major aim of this project is to document, summarize and preserve Timor material on any aspect whatsoever of that island for the East Timorese people and for other interested persons.